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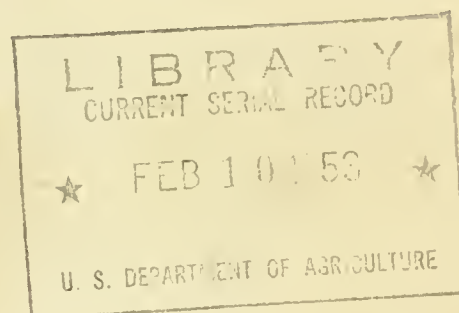
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WORLD FOOD SITUATION 1953



THIS CIRCULAR IS A CONTINUATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMARIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS SINCE 1945. IT SUMMARIZES THE FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION IN MAJOR DEFICIT AND SURPLUS PRODUCING AREAS, REVIEWS PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL FOOD COMMODITIES FOR 1952-53 AND PRESENTS THE OUTLOOK FOR WINTER CROPS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.

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Approved by Outlook and Situation Board

WORLD FOOD SITUATION 1952-53

World Summary

World food supplies are at record high levels for the 1952-53 season ^{1/}. Production exceeds all past records for several of the major commodities, including wheat, rice, meats and citrus fruits. Production was high though not at record levels for sugar, fats and oils, milk and deciduous fruits; but with large carry-over stocks of sugar, supplies of this commodity also exceeds all past records. On the whole, the 1952-53 production of the major commodities, which contributes about 80 percent of the total food supply, is estimated at 3 percent above 1951-52 and 9 percent above the prewar average, while the world population has increased to about 13 percent above prewar. (See table).

World wheat production in 1952-53 of 7,265 million bushels far surpassed that of any previous year. It was 12 percent above the preceding year and 24 percent above the prewar average. The acreage harvested was slightly higher than a year earlier but most of the increase in output resulted from unusually favorable yields in major producing areas. The rye crop was less than a year ago because of a smaller crop in Russia, but total breadgrain supplies were at a new record and nearly 9 percent above last year. The world rice crop of 123 million short tons was also a record crop and exceeded last year's output by 5 percent. Much of the increase was in major rice importing countries which will tend to reduce the demand for other grains as rice substitutes for 1953.

Total production of edible fats and oils of 21.6 million short tons was about 4 percent below the record output of 1951, most of the decline resulting from the sharp drop in olive oil production from the record crop of last year. World production of centrifugal sugar of 36.7 million short tons, raw value, was 4 percent below last year's record crop but 29 percent above prewar. The reduction in production this season is largely the result of restrictive measures taken by Cuba and Puerto Rico because of the large surplus. World orange and pear crops set new records in 1952 and apple production, including cider apples, was 20 percent above a year earlier, but production of grapefruit and stone fruits were smaller, particularly plums and prunes, which were below average.

^{1/} The 1952-53 season refers to the consumption year approximating July 1952-June 1953 in the Northern Hemisphere and the calendar year 1953 in the tropical area and the South Hemisphere. Production data for 1952-53 includes the 1952 harvest already completed in the Northern Hemisphere and the harvest yet to be completed in the next few months in the tropical areas of the Southern Hemisphere and calendar year estimates of production of meats and milk.

World Production of Selected Food Products, Average 1935-39
and Annual 1949-1952

Commodity	Unit	Average	Annual			
		1935-39	1949	1950	1951	1952
	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions
Rice, milled.....	Short tons	117.1	118.0	118.5	117.6	123.2
Wheat.....	Bushels	6,024	6,140	6,318	6,473	7,266
Rye.....	"	1,732	1,719	1,671	1,655	1,583
Sugar, centrifugal....	Short tons	28.5	31.9	36.2	38.2	36.7
Sugar, non-centrifugal....	Short tons	5.0	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.7
Vegetable oils, edible...	Short tons	8.4	9.6	9.2	10.6	9.7
Coconut and palm oils.....	Short tons	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.0	3.9
Animal fats.....	" "	7.3	6.6	7.0	7.2	7.2
Marine Oils.....	" "	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Potatoes.....	Bushels	8,366	8,046	8,468	7,892	7,755
Pulses 1/.....	100 pound bags	292.6	331.0	315.5	299.3	291.0
Deciduous fruits 2/.....	Short tons	58.4	58.7	64.6	60.1	61.4
Citrus fruits...	" "	9.9	12.2	13.8	13.7	14.6
Meat.....	Pounds	67,900	68,900	72,500	73,500	76,100
Milk (cows milk) 3/...	Pounds	501,000	476,700	499,300	500,400	499,200
Total as percent of 1935-39.....	Percent	100.0	101.3	104.1	105.3	109.0

1/ Haricot beans, peas, lentils, chickpeas (garbanzos).

2/ Includes apples, pears, peaches, apricots, cherries, plums, prunes and grapes.

3/ Excludes the Soviet Union.

SOURCE: Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, United States Department of Agriculture. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information.

Meat production in 1952 of 76.1 billion pounds was at the highest level in history, 4 percent above last season and 12 percent above prewar. Milk production in 1952 was nearly equal to that of 1951 and the same as prewar but higher than in any of the intervening years. With larger supplies of coarse grains and other livestock feeds available during the 1952-53 season, meat and milk production is likely to stay at 1952 levels during the remainder of 1952-53 consumption year.

The carry-in stocks of major foods at the beginning of the 1952-53 consumption year were larger than usual. The carry-over stocks of sugar on September 1, 1952 amounted to about 12 million tons and were about 3 million tons in excess of desirable or necessary stocks. Wheat stocks of the major exporting countries on July 1, 1952 of 639 million bushels were nearly 200 million bushels below the previous year but were 80 million bushels above the 1945-49 average. Stocks of edible oils at the beginning of the current consumption year were large mainly because of the substantial carry-over of olive oil from the record 1951 crop.

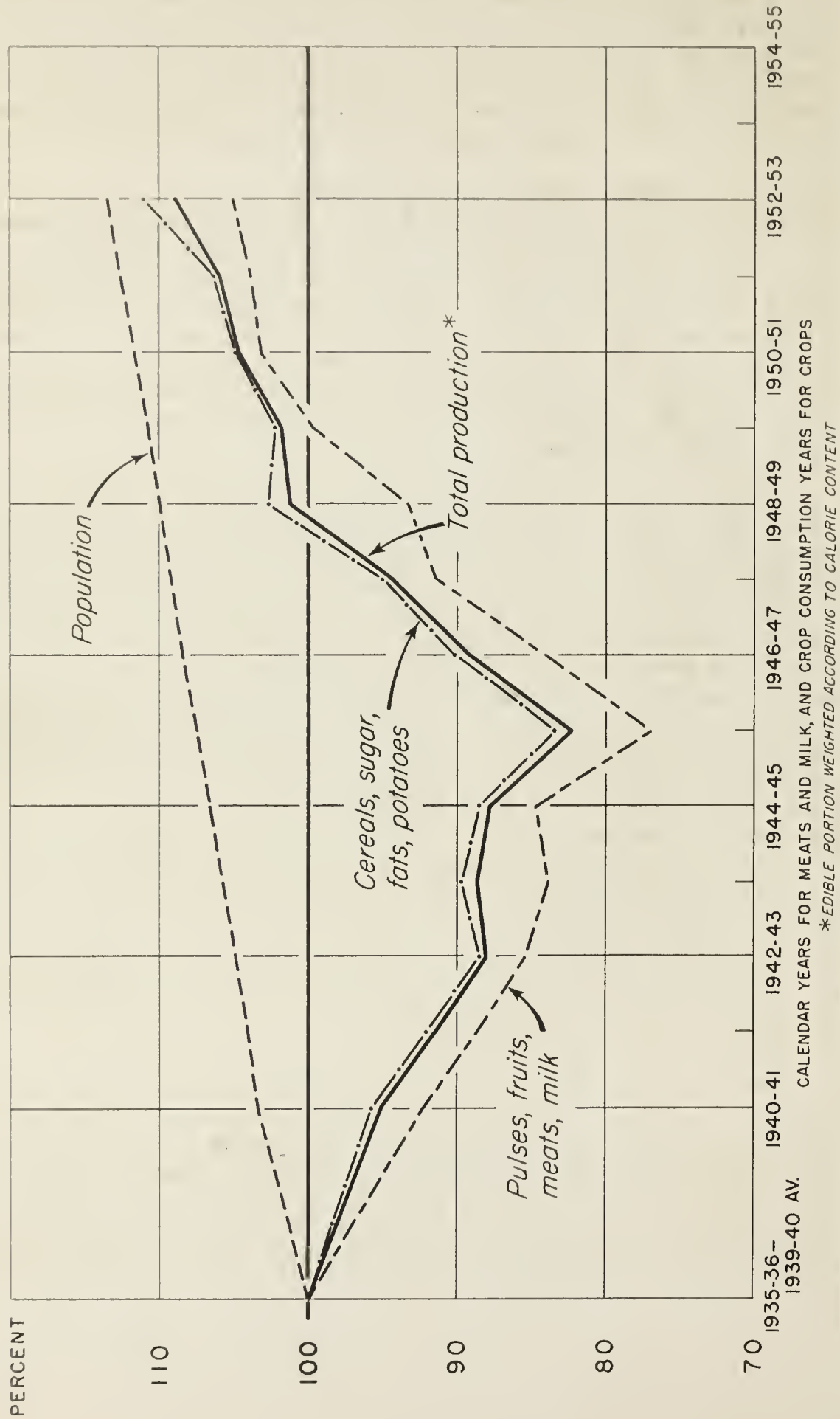
The world production estimates of selected commodities in the table are shown combined into an index of total food production in Figure I and compared with the trend of world population since prewar. It is evident that the large output of these commodities in 1952-53 has done much to bring the relationship between the world's population and the world food supplies more nearly in line with that of prewar and it is possible that the discrepancy is less than these statistics indicate. During the 15-year period since 1937 there has been a marked expansion in the consumption of several commodities for which no world estimates are available. This is particularly true of vegetables, some of them relatively high in calories such as sweet potatoes, cassava and other tropical vegetables. The relatively high prices of foods during the war and postwar period has resulted in less waste in food products during those periods. Also several governments are still encouraging more efficient utilization of foods through higher extraction rates for breadgrains and admixtures of grains, rationing of scarce foods and programs to equalize food consumption. More efficient feeding of livestock has meant a saving of some products for food uses and there has been greater human consumption of coarse grains such as corn and barley than in prewar.

With increased production since the end of the war and more efficient utilization world food supplies on a per capita basis may be nearly equal to prewar but there are areas where food consumption is still below prewar levels and areas where food supplies for 1952-53 are definitely below a year earlier. Food supplies in Eastern Europe have dropped below the 1951-52 level, largely because of an extensive summer drought which was especially severe in the Danube Basin. This

FIGURE 1.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF SELECTED FOOD PRODUCTS IN RELATION TO WORLD POPULATION TRENDS 1935 - 52

(1935 - 39 = 100)



area, which was a large net exporter of foods to Western Europe has exported very little in the postwar period and levels of food consumption in this area this year are somewhat below prewar.

Drought in Western Pakistan has reduced that country to a food importer during the current season, whereas, it usually is a surplus producer of wheat and rice. Egypt's food supply position has become considerably less favorable than in 1951-52 because of smaller wheat and corn crops and a small rice crop for the second successive year. There is also an extensive area in southern and eastern Africa where drought reduced food supplies during 1952 to below normal levels. On the other hand, most of the countries of the Western Hemisphere and in western Europe, Asia Minor, and Oceania have been able to maintain consumption and to increase the quality of their diet through the consumption of more nutritive and protective foods.

With world food supply again approaching prewar levels, on a per capita basis, the problem of distribution of supplies through world trade is still prevalent. Many of the surplus producers of sugar, wheat, citrus, and several of the fats and oils are finding it increasingly difficult to market their surplus supplies at satisfactory prices.

Although the consumption of livestock products, particularly meats, is still below prewar in many of the importing countries, indications are that most of the prewar level of wartime losses has taken place and unless marked changes occur in feedgrain supplies, livestock output in those countries is likely to remain relatively stable during the next year or two.

Outlook for Winter Crops Less Favorable than a Year Ago

The outlook for winter crops in the Northern Hemisphere, which will be a part of the world food supplies during the 1953-54 consumption year, is less favorable than it was a year ago. December crop conditions in the United States indicated a winter wheat crop of only 611 million bushels compared with the 1952 crop of 1,053 million bushels. In Europe, weather conditions for winter grains are variable but generally below the relatively favorable conditions at this time last year. In the Soviet Union and the Danube Basin planting was delayed in some areas but conditions are now reported as satisfactory. Several countries of western Continental Europe had an early winter and unusually heavy precipitation which delayed fall planting and crops entered the winter season with less fall growth than usual. The area sown in France by January 1, 1953 was 8 percent less than a year ago and seeding was also backward in western Germany. On the other hand, wheat acreage in Italy is at least as large as last year and the crop well advanced and conditions are generally good in the United Kingdom and Spain. In Turkey, seeding was delayed by the late onset of fall rains in the principal wheat growing area and in Syria, a serious drought threatens the crop in the southern part of the country. India reports generally favorable prospects for the spring wheat crop.

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THE SITUATION BY COUNTRIES AND AREAS

EUROPE AND FRENCH NORTH AFRICA

Food supplies in Europe and French North Africa are indicated to be slightly smaller in 1952-53 compared with 1951-52, mainly because of a reduction in the Danube Basin region where the 1952 harvest was badly damaged by prolonged summer drought. With domestic production larger, and imports somewhat smaller, supplies per capita in Western Europe should be up to last year's level and close to the prewar average.

Western Europe.

In 1952-53 Western European countries increased food production for the fifth year in succession, as a result of the near-record wheat and large fruit crops of 1952, and the prospect of a continued upward trend in livestock products in 1952-53. Though most spring-sown crops in France, southern Germany, Austria and Italy suffered from abnormally dry summer weather, Western Europe's production of coarse grain and potatoes showed only slight declines, while sugar output reached the high 1951 level. The crops of hay and fodder roots also suffered from lack of precipitation in some areas, but unless the winter is unusually severe supplies of roughage will be adequate, and in some countries abundant supplies will even permit a reduction in imports of concentrates. It is also expected that, as a result of the domestic supply position, Western Europe's imports of wheat in 1952-53 will be measurably below 1951-52.

Food consumption levels in general compare favorably with prewar, both quantitatively and qualitatively, in most Western European countries. Where there are still shortfalls, these are not serious nutritionally and may have been offset by shifts within product categories and especially by greater equality as among population groups within countries. Still, smaller meat consumption, compared with prewar, is notable throughout Western Europe. At the same time milk consumption varies among the several countries ranging from close to, or high above, the prewar average in most countries. Fruit consumption also has shown a widespread increase. Rationing is past in practically all countries except the United Kingdom where subsidized consumer prices and the country's extreme dependence on food imports in a period of persistent balance-of-payments difficulties are regarded as compelling reasons for a continuance of direct rationing controls on meat, fats, cheese, and sugar.

Total food production (excluding imported feed) in Western Europe in the consumption year 1952-53, is at present forecast at 117 percent of prewar, as compared with 116 percent in 1951-52. The United Kingdom, the Scandinavian countries, and the Low Countries exceed the average increase; the others fall short of it. The high level of production not only reflects favorable weather conditions but also the much larger input of fertilizer (nearly 45 percent above the middle thirties in the 1951-52 growing season) and the greater availability of farm machinery and other agricultural requisites.

Since its population has increased to 114 percent of the 1933-37 averages, Western Europe has gained only a little in food self-sufficiency since the middle thirties when imports (including food produced from imported feed) accounted for about 30 percent of the calorie value of the food supply. Grains, fats, and sugar remain the major import items in terms of calories. Net import requirements of these commodities in 1952-53 are forecast at about 13 million short tons of bread grains, or about 95 percent of the prewar average; 9 million short tons of coarse grains, or about 70 percent of prewar; 3.4 million short tons of fats and oils, or 117 percent of prewar; and 2.3 million short tons of sugar (refined basis), or 70 percent of prewar. Compared to 1951-52, the decrease for grains is some 3.5 million short tons and for sugar more than 400,000 short tons. Net import requirements of fats and oils are expected to be about as large as last year.

French North Africa.

The 1952 grain crop in Tunisia broke all records; Algeria had the best harvest since 1939, and in French Morocco, where output fell short of the high 1951 level by only 10 percent, the supply available at the beginning of the season was increased by a substantial carry-over. Gross imports of grains, nearly all wheat, into the French North African area, which rose sharply to 385,000 tons in 1951-52, are expected to be small in 1952-53. On the other hand gross exportable surpluses for 1952-53 have been estimated at some 400,000 tons of wheat and 800,000 tons of coarse grain, mainly barley, giving a total of 1,200,000 tons, as against exports of 705,000 tons in 1951-52 and 1,200,000 tons in 1950-51.

Eastern Europe, including Yugoslavia.

The formerly surplus-producing regions of Eastern Europe (excluding the Soviet Union) will have little food and feed available for export to the west in 1952-53. Weather conditions in 1952 were unfavorable for crop production in Poland, Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia as well as in the Danube Basin. Small grains escaped much damage, production being about at the postwar average. But the hot, dry summer drastically reduced output of corn, a leading food and feed grain in the Danube Basin. Output of potatoes and sugar beets, of major importance in the countries to the north, was lowered not only by lack of summer rainfall but also by the onset of cold, wet weather before the harvest could be completed. According to many indications, supplies of fertilizer and farm machinery in Eastern Europe have been on the increase, but the quantities available are still small, and the drive for collectivization, now relaxed, now intensified, continues to disturb the organization of production.

The drop in production has intensified the already difficult food supply problem in most Eastern European countries resulting from agricultural and economic policies of the communist governments. Postwar food output in Eastern Europe (excluding the Soviet Union) has failed

to reach the prewar average even in good crop years, whereas the total population is about as numerous as in 1935, and the urban population is much more numerous. Rationing had to be reintroduced as early as 1950-51 in Czechoslovakia (most foods), in Hungary (bread, flour, sugar, fats, and, in Budapest, meat), and in the urban centers of Poland (meat, fats, sugar). Eastern Germany has steadily maintained rationing for meat, fats and sugar, and Rumania for bread and most other foods. Yugoslavia and Bulgaria continued to ration food until after the good 1951 harvest when rations were also abolished in Hungary. Though food shortages have reappeared in the latter 3 countries, rationing has not so far been restored. Yugoslavia counts on substantial imports of food from the United States and Western Europe to tide the country over to the next harvest. Intra-Soviet bloc shipments will no doubt afford some relief, as in the past, to other hard-pressed East European countries. Poland may belong in this category, since the abandonment of rationing there once again in January 1952, accompanied as it was by a sharp increase in food prices, is not an indication of an improvement in the food situation but a shift from a disorganized rationing by coupon to a stricter rationing by the purse. Breakdowns in the rationing system have also been reported recently in Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia.

SOVIET UNION

Slow improvement in the Russian food situation, which was very stringent during the early postwar years, continued during 1952. However, there appeared to be considerable local variations in the availability of various foodstuffs and there is scant information on the food situation in the more remote interior regions. Shortages of dairy and meat products still occur, but white (wheat) bread, which was very scarce during the war and early postwar period, appears to be more plentiful, especially in Moscow. Rationing of foodstuffs was formally abolished in December 1947, coincidental with a drastic devaluation of Soviet currency.

A reduction in retail prices of food products sold in government stores, which constitute the principal retail outlet in the Soviet Union, was ordered by the Government on April 1, 1952.^{1/} This was the fifth consecutive year that such a reduction in prices took place in the spring. Prices of foodstuffs, however, are still considerably above the prewar levels as shown in the following table:

^{1/} While this decree would seem to imply that prices would remain constant until a new decree is issued, some fluctuations in the price of foods of comparable quality occur.

Retail Food Prices in Moscow State Stores on Specified Dates

Rubles^{1/}

Item	1940 Jan. 1	1947 Jan. 2/ 1948	Dec. 1952
Rye bread (black) Kg.	.85	3.00	1.50
Wheat bread(white) do	1.70	7.00	3.10
Beef, 1st quality do	10.50	30.00	14.20
Sugar (lump) . . . do	4.10	15.00	11.20
Butter (sweet) . . do	21.00	64.00	29.80
Milk, fresh, whole liter	2.10	4.00	
bottled			3.10
bulk			2.95

(1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds; 1 liter = 1.1 quarts.)

1/ The value of the ruble cannot be stated accurately in terms of U.S. currency. The official exchange rate has been fixed at 25 cents U.S. currency per ruble. This rate, however, does not represent the true purchasing power of the ruble nor does it reflect its depreciation since the beginning of World War II.

2/ Following the abandonment of rationing.

According to a study published by the U.S. Department of Labor, "An industrial worker in the United States can buy more than 5 times as much food with an hour's pay as a Russian worker who shops in a Moscow state store . . . Even though these stores reduced prices of many important foods from 10 to 20 percent as of April 1, 1952, the average worker's food cost probably dropped by only about 12 percent because not all foods were equally affected." (Irving B. Kravis and Faith M. Williams, "Food-Purchasing Power of Earnings in 12 Countries, 1951-52," Monthly Labor Review, June 1952, p. 658.)

The supplies of various foodstuffs may not always be available at state stores, making it necessary in such cases for the public to resort to purchases on the private (legal) market at higher prices. In general, the price level on the private market, though higher than in government stores, has also declined.

The total sown area for the 1952 harvest increased by roughly 7 million acres over 1951 and is estimated at 385 million compared with approximately 378 million acres sown to crops in 1938 within the present boundaries of the U.S.S.R. The 1952 sown area, though higher than the prewar area, was still below the 1950 goal of 392 million

acres specified by the postwar 5-year government plan of 1946-1950. It is also important to note that, while the sown area increased only by about 2 percent since the prewar period, the population has grown more rapidly, from roughly 194 million within the present boundaries at the beginning of 1939 to about 209 million by the beginning of 1953. Furthermore, the acreage under grains, the most important food crops, is, in accordance with Soviet policy, below prewar. Nevertheless, very large grain crops have been reported by Soviet official sources during the postwar years, reaching a record figure of 144 million short tons in 1952, compared with 133 million in 1951, and 137 million in 1949 and 1950 (all grains and legumes combined). These figures, however, are of the so-called "biological" preharvest estimates of crops standing in the field. They do not take into account the large harvesting losses common in the U.S.S.R. and are considered greatly overestimated and must be adjusted downward, probably by as much as one-third, to obtain the barn outturn of the crop.

The weather during the 1951-52 crop year was irregular. The adverse effects of the dry fall in 1951, when the winter grains, wheat and rye, were sown for the 1952 harvest, and of the cold late spring in 1952, were offset to a large extent by relatively good weather during early summer. Heavy rains, however, during the latter part of the summer, which continued throughout the harvesting season, had resulted in large crop losses and deterioration of quality. Still, the net barn harvest of food and feed was probably higher than in 1951 when a number of important regions suffered from a drought. Indications are that production of wheat and coarse grains was somewhat larger in 1952 than in 1951, while the rye crop was smaller. Increased sugar beet and potato crops are also indicated, although adverse harvesting weather probably reduced the earlier prospects of an abundant harvest.

Disposal of the crops between domestic consumption needs, stockpiling and exports, depends primarily on the decision of the Soviet Government, which has a monopoly on Soviet foreign trade and controls the internal distribution. The Government acquires control of food supplies through compulsory deliveries of crops and animal products by collective farms at low fixed prices, payments in kind by collective farms for servicing by state machine-tractor stations, deliveries of their output by state farms, and additional purchases by the Government from collective farms. So far this season the Soviet Union has not been very active on the international grain market. The most important transaction was that resulting from a barter agreement with Pakistan, according to which the Soviet Union shipped 5.5 million bushels of wheat in exchange for Pakistan jute and cotton. In accordance with an agreement covering a 4-months' period, October 1952 through January 1953, 200,000 metric tons of coarse grains were purchased by the United Kingdom. In former years similar agreements were concluded between Britain and the Soviet Union, covering a whole year or more, and involving much larger quantities, reaching the agreement in 1951, 1,000,000 metric tons of grain, of which 7.3 million bushels (200,000 tons) were wheat and the rest coarse grains. There is, however, a

possibility of further grain deals between the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union. Negotiations with Finland, a regular market for Soviet grains, are in progress. It is also possible that sizable quantities of grain will be moved to Eastern Germany and other satellites, where crop conditions were unsatisfactory this year. Such grain shipments may be undertaken, not only to meet a deficit in domestic food and feed requirements, but also for stockpiling purposes.

Livestock numbers have continued an upward trend through 1951, as shown by the table below, thus indicating a probable increase in the available supply of meat and other animal products.

Number of Livestock as of January 1, Selected Years

	1938	1951	1952
	estimate 1/	reported	reported
	Millions	Millions	Millions
Cattle	59.8	57.2	58.8
Sheep & Goats	75.0	99.0	107.5
Hogs	32.3	24.1	26.7

1/ Present (postwar) boundaries.

MIDDLE EAST

Food supplies in the Middle East area, as a whole, are definitely larger in 1952-53 than they were the previous year. The winter cereal crops, with a few exceptions, were well above average, spring and summer fruit and vegetable crops were plentiful, and summer cereal crops in most cases were better than in 1951. Olive oil production in 1952 was down a little below last year in Syria and Lebanon but in Turkey it was considerably better than in the previous year.

Turkey's cereal crops in 1952 were exceptionally good, reflecting increased mechanization under the Mutual Security Agency program and favorable weather conditions. Some 727,000 short tons surplus of wheat are reported in addition to the 441,000 short tons of carry-over from the 1951 crop. Nearly a million short tons of other cereal crops are also reported available for export from Turkey this year. Improved storage conditions and better transportation are facilitating the export of surplus products. Syria likewise was a surplus wheat producer in 1952 and has at least 220,000 short tons surplus in contrast with a 55,000 short ton deficit last year. The barley and sorghum crops also were good producing some 77,000 short tons of exportable surplus.

Jordan has also changed from a deficit to a surplus cereal producer this year although its wheat surplus may be rather small. Both Iran and Iraq had good cereal crops and will be self-sufficient in

wheat. In addition Iraq should have around 441,000 short tons of barley, 33 to 39 thousand short tons of sorghum, millet and corn, and 6,000 short tons of pulse crops and possibly 11,000 short tons of rice for export. The good date crop this year should provide over 330,000 short tons for export. Because of the high price of domestic wheat the Government of Iraq is importing 22,000 short tons of wheat from the United States to insure reasonable priced Government stocks for feeding the country's urban population.

Egypt, which is normally a rice exporting country, is suffering from an exceptionally small crop in 1952. Fortunately the carry-over rice stocks from 1951 were large enough to meet the country's requirements this coming year. The 1952 wheat and corn crop, on the other hand, were normal, and will supply about one-half of the country's need for these commodities. During the past two years about one-half of the country's annual wheat import requirements of around 14 million bushels have been imported under the International Wheat Agreement and about half through a cotton-wheat barter agreement with Russia. It is rather unlikely that Egypt will renew its barter agreement with Russia this year to supply the balance of the country's wheat requirements.

Afghanistan had a small wheat crop in 1952 with a few regions suffering from drought. Domestic wheat prices in Afghanistan have consequently risen and as transportation conditions in the country are difficult, it is expected that the bread situation in the capital city of Kabul will be rather critical next spring, requiring some import of wheat before the next harvest.

Crops on the whole were better than average in 1952 in the deficit food producing countries of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Israel. They have continued to purchase most of their wheat import requirements under the International Wheat Agreement.

THE FAR EAST

As in previous postwar years, the 1952-53 food situation outlook in the Far East continues to be conditioned by a precarious world rice supply balance. The 1952-53 world rice crop set a new record for production, but Asia's harvest was only about 1 percent higher than before the war. Since Asia's population has increased 10 to 15 percent since then, per capita rice consumption has declined among the traditionally rice-consuming populations of the Far East. Consumption of some other foods has increased materially. Production of sweet potatoes for example has increased to upwards of 50 percent above the prewar average in several countries of Southeast Asia.

In the 3 great rice exporting countries of Southeast Asia -- Burma, Indochina, and Thailand -- the supply of rice available for export is slightly larger than last year, but still far below the average prewar level when about 6.3 million short tons of milled rice were exported annually. The exportable surplus from the 1952-53 rice harvest in these countries will probably be no more than 3.5 million

short tons. Burma's 1952-53 rice crop, while higher than in the previous year, is not expected to yield an exportable surplus of more than half the volume of its average prewar export of 3.2 million short tons. And due to continued hostilities in Indochina, that country's rice exports now stand at little more than 15 percent of its prewar average. Only Thailand is exporting a greater volume of rice than before the Second World War.

Local food supplies in Burma, Indochina, and Thailand are generally adequate for domestic needs, hence the major problem these 3 countries face is to satisfy the acute pressure for their limited export surplus of rice. The prospect of a continued strong demand for rice at high prices normally would stimulate a substantial increase in production. But this is not likely to happen in Burma and Thailand since the high export price is not passed on to local rice farmers by the government export monopoly.

The small export surplus of rice in Southeast Asia will not be adequate in 1953 to supply the needs of such traditionally food-deficit countries as India, Japan, Malaya, and Ceylon. Formosa, however, had an excellent rice crop in 1952 and may export some 200,000 tons of milled rice in 1953. West Pakistan reportedly suffered drought again in 1952 which may result in a poor harvest for this normally surplus area. Thus many countries in Asia have been forced to turn to the Western Hemisphere for part of their food import requirements. Large scale shipments of wheat have gone to Japan and India in recent years, and the United States has recently found it necessary to impose limitations on total exports of rice as well as destination allocations on rice exports.

In India the 1952 autumn harvest of coarse grains and rice was very good. Foodgrain stocks at the beginning of 1953 were relatively large and current prospects are promising for a good wheat crop in the spring. Hence India's total domestic food supply in 1953 will be slightly larger than last year, and the government plans to import only 3.4 million short tons of foodgrains as compared with 4.4 million tons in 1952. In West Pakistan the drought of last spring, which severely affected summer crops, was followed by an unusually dry fall, and hence the outlook for the winter wheat crop is not promising. The Pakistan government has scheduled imports of about 500,000 tons of foodgrains (mostly wheat) to alleviate the current food shortage.

The 1952 crops on the Chinese mainland appear to have been good, but below the average annual production during the period 1931-37. Since there are still reports of local famine on the Chinese mainland, the export of foodgrains from China in recent years does not necessarily reflect a true surplus, but indicates rather the implementation of a strict export policy for the purpose of acquiring either foreign exchange assets or certain strategic commodities, such as rubber from Ceylon. Ceylon recently signed a trade agreement with China which appears to assure Ceylon with adequate rice supplies during 1953.

Japan, due to its large and rapidly increasing population and relatively small area, has one of the largest food deficits in Asia. The 1952-53 Japanese rice harvest is forecast at about 10 percent higher than in 1951-52, and significant gains also are expected in the production of sweet potatoes, fruits, vegetables, fish, and meat. Even with increased production estimated 1953 foodgrain import requirements are in the vicinity of 3.3 million short tons while perhaps one million tons of sugar and 400,000 tons of soybeans will be required. Some of Japan's traditional sources of supply in Asia have been cut off since the war, and in recent years it has become more dependent on the Western Hemisphere, particularly the United States, for food supplies.

The food situation in Korea has, quite naturally, deteriorated since the outbreak of the war. Recent reports indicate that agricultural production in South Korea has been less severely affected by the war than originally estimated, but the inflated currency situation and the difficulty encountered in equitably distributing available food supplies are resulting in hardships for many. Army civil assistance programs and United Nations relief agencies have been bringing in substantial shipments of food grains for emergency distribution.

Indonesia has been importing an increasing amount of rice with each postwar year in order to meet the consumption needs of a rapidly growing population. About 815,000 short tons of milled rice were imported in 1952. Total 1952 domestic production, including both Java-Madura and the Outer Islands, is estimated at about 7.2 million short tons milled rice, an encouraging 8 percent above the previous year. Intensive efforts are currently being undertaken by the government to make the islands self-sufficient in rice by 1956. If the present upward trend in domestic production can be continued, 1953 import requirements will probably be between 400,000 and 600,000 short tons of milled rice.

The food supply situation in the Philippines for 1953 appears to be encouraging. The 1952-53 rice harvest gives all indications of being about 2.4 million short tons milled equivalent, an all-time record for the Philippines and 15 percent above last year. During 1952 only 71,000 short tons of milled rice were imported, and stocks on hand as of January 1, 1953 were about 1.1 million short tons, almost 10 percent more than a year ago. Hence, at present it appears unlikely that rice imports will be required during 1953, provided growing conditions are favorable for other crops.

Corn production has expanded steadily in recent years, and, barring extremely unfavorable weather, the 1952-53 crop should be somewhat above the previous year's record peacetime level of 680,000 short tons. Sufficient corn is currently being grown to satisfy domestic food requirements, but a continued expansion of production would be desirable as a source of cattle feed. Sweet potatoes and cassava are widely grown, and cassava production may be expected to increase slightly due to the government's effort to substitute cassava flour in part for imported wheat flour. Philippine sugar production is now about 20 percent above prewar.

Malaya will continue as a deficit food area so long as its highly specialized plantation economy remains profitable. Malaya is one of the two leading producers of natural rubber in the world. Large scale imports of rice have been required for many years to feed Malaya's great plantation labor force and its crowded urban population. The 1952 rice crop was about 20 percent less than the previous year's record harvest, hence 1953 import requirements will be heavy, perhaps about 600,000 short tons. But due to the recent fall in rubber prices, some additional plantation labor will be released for rice cultivation -- hence the 1953 rice crop will be larger than last year.

UNITED STATES 1/

Food supplies of the United States during 1952 were the largest of record. This resulted from the unusually large total output of food crops and livestock products, which was about 45 percent above the prewar (1935-39) annual average. The domestic demand for food continued strong throughout the year, but with supplies large, retail food prices averaged only slightly higher than for the preceding year. Per capita food consumption in 1952 averaged approximately the same as in 1951 and more than one-tenth above the prewar average annual rate.

The production of food crops in 1952, despite drought conditions in a large part of the country during the growing season, was about 8 percent above that of the preceding year and almost 40 percent larger than the prewar (1935-39) average annual output. Wheat supplies, including stocks carried over from the preceding marketing year, are much larger than will be required for domestic food and nonfood needs and the probable exports in 1952-53, and are likely to result in a material increase in carry-over stocks at the end of the current marketing year. As in the preceding year, the United States will be able to export relatively large quantities of rice in 1952-53 to food deficit areas in the Far East as well as to traditional markets in the Western Hemisphere. Because of the strong demand, exports of 1952-crop rice are controlled under a quantitative and destinalional allocation.

The production of vegetables, both for fresh use and for processing, was slightly smaller than in 1951, although more than 50 percent larger than the corresponding prewar (1935-39) average annual output. The smaller production of vegetables in 1952 compared with a year earlier resulted from reductions in both acreages and yields. Potato production was 8 percent larger than in 1951, although 16 percent below the average annual output in recent years (1941-50). Production of both dry edible beans and peas was smaller than in 1951, and that of sweetpotatoes was the smallest since 1881.

About 9 percent less deciduous fruit was harvested in 1952 than in the preceding year, but citrus fruit production in 1952-53 is likely to be about equal to that in 1951-52. Although the prospective orange crop promises to be record large in size, and the 1952 pear crop exceeded both that of 1951 and the corresponding recent 10-year average, the production of apples, grapefruit, and plums and prunes were each well below the respective crops of a year earlier and the 10-year average.

The volume of livestock products produced in 1952 for sale and for consumption on farms where produced was almost 4 percent above that of a year earlier and the largest of record. The increase over 1951 was in meat, eggs, and poultry. Production of milk on farms in 1952 was almost as large as in the preceding year. Among the meats, increased output occurred for beef, veal, and lamb and mutton; pork production was about the same as in 1951. Eggs and poultry production were record large. With incomes at a high level in 1952, civilian consumption of livestock products remained high.

CANADA

Canada's agricultural season in 1951-52 resulted in surpluses of many items, particularly grains and livestock products.

The 1952 wheat crop, estimated at 688 million bushels, was the highest on record and should provide an exportable surplus equivalent to about 400 million bushels, exclusive of allowances for stocks, or about double the usual exportable surplus. The wheat is of very good quality with about 50 percent of the crop grading No. 1 or 2 Northern. Exportable supplies of feed-grains are also at high levels, primarily as a result of a record barley crop.

Livestock numbers were also maintained at high levels in 1952 which resulted in large meat and dairy production. Stocks of meat are particularly high as a result of the inability of the local market to absorb the available domestic supply which accumulated as a result of an embargo on meat and livestock exports to the United States following outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Saskatchewan early in 1952. Milk production in 1952 was estimated at 1,492 million pounds or about 200 million pounds greater than 1951. A further increase is also predicted for total milk production in 1953. Most of this increase is attributed to the increase in dairy cattle numbers which has resulted since 1951. Milk for manufacture was diverted from cheese to butter production in 1952 as a result of the failure of the British Ministry of Food to make purchases of Canadian cheese and restrictions on cheese imports into the United States. Eggs and poultry have been in good supply and with lower prices prevailing in 1952 domestic consumption has been at record levels. Supplies of eggs, lard and sugar are expected to continue to be ample in 1953.

The only major foods likely to be in short supply in Canada during 1952-53 are potatoes and apples. Both crops were short in 1952 and are expected to be consumed in smaller quantities in 1952-53. Potato imports to satisfy the demand in 1952-53 will probably be about 28 million bushels as compared to 38 million in 1951-52. Apple exports may reach 1.5 million bushels but will be below last year and considerably below average.

LATIN AMERICA

Production of food in Latin America during 1952-53 is expected to be higher than that during the preceding year, and about 50 percent above the prewar average. On a per capita basis, food production in 1951-52 increased about 5 percent above prewar, and may exceed prewar level of 10 percent for 1952-53. The expected rise above last year in total crop production is attributed largely to improvement in Argentina where the prospects for the grain crops are considerably above the low level of 1951-52. In countries other than Argentina, food production has been going up slowly but steadily since the war, with the greatest increases in the northern

part of Latin America. The restricted sugar harvest in Cuba is the principal exception to the general increase in food output in the 1952-53 season.

In spite of increased production of food staples, the countries of northern Latin America are expected to continue as excellent markets for United States wheat and flour, lard, and processed milk during 1953. Fresh and dried fruits and luxury goods may not find a ready market in Brazil, Chile and certain other countries suffering from exchange shortages. The area as a whole is not expected to have any shortages of major food items for domestic consumption during the year, with the possible exception of meat in Argentina and Brazil. In the latter country the population is increasing more rapidly than the meat supply and Argentina may continue restricting domestic consumption of meat in order to supply Britain and thereby earn foreign exchange.

The Argentine wheat harvest just being completed is estimated at 270 million bushels, which should provide more than 100 million bushels for export. Corn production is expected to reach about 120 million bushels. Actual exports of corn during the calendar year 1952, were 25 million bushels compared with the ~~previous~~ average (1935-39) of 239 million bushels. Contrasted with the other grains, the rice crop in 1951-52 was the largest on record, resulting from increased plantings and extraordinary yields per acre. Production in 1952-53 is estimated at 330 million pounds, a reduction from the record crop of the preceding year of about 20 percent.

The quantity of meat available to Argentine consumers in 1952 is estimated at 3,950 million pounds, or about the same as in 1951. The per capita supply, however, was less. Exports in 1952 included 408 million pounds of beef, 88 million of mutton, and 22 million of pork. The most important factor in the meat export picture in 1953 is the recently concluded Anglo-Argentine trade protocol which provides for the export of 357 million pounds of carcass beef to Great Britain during 1953 at a higher price than that obtained in 1952. In addition, the protocol provides for exports of meats and meat preparations other than carcass beef.

Except for a few northeastern areas, the weather in Brazil in 1952 was favorable for food production. Supplies in 1953 are expected to be larger than the previous year, with a record wheat harvest now being completed. Brazil is a wheat deficit country, depending in most years on imports from Argentina. During 1952 Argentina has not been able to supply this need and Brazil has had to spend dollar exchange for purchases from the United States and Canada. With the larger Argentine crop Brazil will probably return to that country for about half of her import needs during 1953. Barring unforeseen weather difficulties, grain and other staple food production in the other countries of South America is expected to provide larger quantities for consumption than during 1952.

Because of the threatening sugar surplus Cuba is limiting production to not more than 5,679,000 short tons, compared with the record 7,964,000 tons harvested in 1951-52 in an effort to maintain favorable sugar prices. If she is successful, Cuba will continue to furnish an excellent market for United States agricultural products, particularly rice, wheat flour, and lard. Cuban rice production in 1952-53 is expected to exceed the 150 million pounds of milled rice produced this past year, but the increase is not expected to exceed the population growth. Meatless Fridays will be continued in Cuba for another year because of the meat shortage.

Mexico is about 98 or 99 percent self-sufficient in its food needs and ample supplies of most kinds of food are in prospect for 1952-53. Severe drought in the north and flood damage in the south have reduced production of some items, but this has been largely offset by increases in other commodities. Production of corn, wheat, most oil seeds, and sugar is equal to or above the preceding year, while beans, cottonseed, and rice output is declining. Banana production and exports continue to decline because of Sigatoka and Panama diseases. Livestock numbers are adequate to meet domestic meat requirements at the prevailing low rate of consumption. Mexico will continue to need imports of wheat and lard, and will probably need imported beans because of the second year of low production.

Food supplies in the Central American Republics are expected to be up slightly above those of 1951-52, continuing an upward trend since the war years. Use of improved seed and techniques resulting from technical assistance programs, together with national programs to increase food production, account for the expanded output in this area.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AFRICA

The outlook for food crops, especially cereals, was believed to be very good in most parts of French West Africa, British West Africa and Belgian Congo. It is predicted that food supplies in these areas will be ample for local consumption needs in 1952-53.

For the 1952-53 season food crops in the Central African area, particularly the Rhodesias, are reported generally satisfactory as a result of heavy rains early in the growing season.

Food conditions and crops in some of the eastern and southern parts of Africa were seriously affected by either drought or floods in 1952. Crops in Mozambique suffered greatly from floods in early 1952 and food supplies were in a critical state by the third quarter of the year. The food situation of the native Africans deteriorated to the point that heavy imports of corn were required from Angola. Conditions were improved by the end of 1952 however, and if crops continue as at the present, it is anticipated that food supplies will be adequate for 1953.

Drought conditions prevailed rather generally throughout the East African areas in 1952 and corn, rice and cowpea crops were disappointing in Kenya, Tanganyika and Zanzibar. Recent rains have improved the situation for the 1953 crops and if weather conditions continue favorable it is expected that yields will be favorable. Grain plantings in most of East Africa were somewhat limited in 1953 because of the scarcity of seed as a result of the poor 1952 crop. In December 1952, control measures were exercised against locusts in Kenya to prevent damage to food crops and some crop damage was also reported in coastal areas by elephants and baboons driven by drought from their local habitat.

Food supplies in the Union of South Africa were far from adequate in late 1952 and are expected to continue short in 1953 as a result of a drought affecting crops during most of 1951-52. The corn crop was particularly affected and shortages of feed and water also produced adverse affects upon meat and milk production. Fluid milk production was below domestic consumption needs throughout 1952 and it is expected that milk rationing may be necessary in certain urban areas during 1953. Stocks of such protective foods as butter, cheese, and meats have fallen to critically low levels and probably will continue in short supply. Even though recent rains have greatly improved growing conditions for crops, it is estimated that about 400,000 short tons of corn and wheat imports will be needed to supplement domestic cereal requirements for 1953.

The citrus crop harvested in 1952 was adversely affected by the lack of moisture and was about 15 percent below the production of the previous year. Commitments of citrus fruits for export through the season ending in November were not fulfilled because of the poor quality of the fruit. Fruit which would normally be exported found its way into domestic markets and the local consumption of oranges was much higher than usual. Recent weather forecasts indicate that the 1953 citrus crop should tend toward a more normal yield.

OCEANIA

Australian agricultural output in 1952-53 is expected to be well above 1951-52. Rainfall conditions in the latter part of 1952 were favorable over most of the country and the condition of livestock, wheat and pastures was generally good to excellent, even though drought conditions continued in some tropical areas. Wheat supplies are expected to be larger than in 1951-52 with an estimated exportable surplus of 90 million bushels. Assuming a good yield the paddy rice crop for 1952-53 is predicted at about 84,000 tons which is much above the 56,000 tons produced in 1951-52 and would be one of the largest crops produced in several years.

Meat production is expected to improve somewhat in 1952-53 above the 943,400 tons reported in 1951-52. Slaughterings of sheep and lambs have been particularly high in 1952, and will probably continue large in 1953 especially in Western Australia where dry

conditions have been only slightly improved by rains. Some increase in frozen lamb and mutton exports are expected in the first half of 1953 as compared to 1952. Price increases varying from 7.5 to 20 percent for pork and beef shipments to the United Kingdom were announced recently in an extension of a meat contract between Australia and United Kingdom until 1954.

Fluid milk, cheese and butter production are expected to increase in 1952-53 as compared to 1951-52. Whole milk supplies will probably increase about 14 percent and butter and cheese 15 percent as compared to the production in 1951-52.

The general trend of food production in New Zealand is upward, especially for livestock products. Efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture have been aimed at accelerating production chiefly by increased use of fertilizers and better grassland management. Financial incentive for farmers has been provided through full payments on export prices received for meat and dairy products under current contracts with the United Kingdom. Funds are also being allocated to farmers from dairy stabilization accounts to increase purchases of farm equipment and stock.

Meat production in 1953 is expected to be about 3 percent above the 572,000 tons produced in 1952. Of this amount an estimated 379,000 tons will be available for export.

For the third year in succession fluid milk production set a new record of 1,304 million imperial gallons in 1951-52 and a further increase is predicted for 1952-53. Butter production in 1952 was at a record level of 194 million pounds, 80 percent of which was exported. Cheese production in 1952 declined as a result of a shift of milk for manufacture from cheese to milk powders and casein but is expected to increase again in 1953 because of some decline in the demand for casein. Slight increases are expected to be noted in the exportable surpluses of both cheese and butter in 1952-53.

New Zealand is normally dependent on large imports of wheat, chiefly from Australia. Production in 1952-53 on the basis of normal yields should yield well over 5 million bushels or slightly less than half of the country's annual requirement of 12 million bushels. In an effort to increase farmers' interests in wheat production, the New Zealand Government recently announced a guaranteed price to growers of \$1.52 per bushel.

GRAINS

World grain production in 1952-53 has reached a new record. The estimates indicate a record wheat crop, a record rice crop, and near-record crops of oats, barley, and corn. With respect to wheat, the principal breadgrain, the increases over last year's (1951-52) production are largely in the exporting countries. The same is true with respect to corn, the principal coarse grain. In regard to rice, however, the largest increases are in the major importing countries, total production in the major exporting countries showing little change from last year.

Because of the large increases in the bread and coarse grain crops in most of the major exporting countries (the United States, Canada, Australia, and Argentina) this year, and the fact that their aggregate stocks on July 1, 1952 were substantially above the 1945-49 level, the quantities available for export from those countries during 1952-53 will be amply sufficient to meet all of the estimated import requirements of the normally deficit areas. This opinion is further strengthened by the fact that very good bread and coarse grain crops were harvested this year in virtually all of the importing countries. With respect to rice, however, total export availabilities during 1953 are expected to be no larger than in 1952 and will, therefore, continue to fall short of import demand by a wide margin, especially in the Far East.

Breadgrains: World breadgrain (wheat and rye) production in 1952-53 is now estimated at 262 million short tons. The current estimate compares with the previous record crop of 248 million tons in 1938-39, with last season's production of 241 million tons, and with the prewar (1935-39) average of 229 million tons. Wheat always represents around 80 percent of the world's breadgrain crop. While rye accounts for only about 20 percent of the total, it is, nevertheless, of considerable importance in the food supply of many countries in Northern and Eastern Europe where, for various reasons, sufficient supplies of wheat cannot be produced domestically or made available from outside areas to meet the total breadgrain requirements at prices people are willing and able to pay.

Wheat: The world's 1952-53 wheat crop is now estimated at 7,265 million bushels compared with the total of 6,475 million for 1951-52 and the previous record of 6,610 million in 1938-39. Significantly, the increases over last season's crop are largely in the exporting countries, especially in the United States, Canada and Argentina. Latest estimates indicate only a moderate increase in the Australian crop. Increases among the smaller exporters include France, Turkey and French North Africa.

In North America, the largest surplus-producing area, the current wheat estimate of 2,000 million bushels is 29 percent above the 1951 total and 84 percent above the 1935-39 average. The record harvest in Canada, now estimated at 688 million bushels, is more than double the prewar average. The United States crop of 1,291 million bushels is the third largest on record, consisting of 1,053 million bushels of winter wheat and 238 million of spring wheat. These two countries, together with Argentina and Australia, will continue to supply the bulk of the wheat and flour moving into export channels during 1952-53.

In South America, the new wheat crop now being harvested is estimated at 355 million bushels, more than double the small outturn last season and substantially above the prewar (1935-39) average of 281 million bushels. The increase is due almost entirely to the anticipated increase in the Argentine crop, normally one of the world's largest exporters. The 1952-53 crop in that country is now estimated at approximately 270 million bushels compared with only 75 million bushels a year ago, and with the prewar average of 222 million bushels.

The 1952 crop in Australia, also one of the principal exporters, where harvesting has just been completed, is now estimated at about 180 million bushels compared with 160 million bushels last season and with the prewar (1935-39) average of 170 million bushels.

The 1952 wheat harvest in Western or Free Europe is a near record, being estimated at 1,230 million bushels compared with 1,151 million bushels in 1951, and with the prewar average of 1,136 million bushels. The total for the rest of Europe, exclusive of the Soviet Union, is 420 million bushels, compared with 434 million bushels a year ago, and with the prewar average of 463 million bushels. Africa has a record crop of 175 million bushels this year, compared with 160 million bushels a year ago, mainly because of the large crop in French North Africa. The crop in Asia is also placed at record levels, being estimated at 1,620 million bushels against 1,610 million bushels last year.

Wheat Supplies Available for Export: Total export availabilities from the 4 principal surplus-producing countries (the United States, Canada, Australia, and Argentina) will be substantially larger during 1952-53 (July-June) than the 949 million bushels actually exported by those countries during 1951-52. On the other hand, total import requirements will be lower. The latter is especially true of the countries of western Europe, which normally figure as the destination for the bulk of the world's wheat exports but which are in a much better supply position this year because of good harvest and improved carry-over stocks. Although Asia, the second most important outlet for the world's wheat exports, has a record crop this year, substantial imports will still be needed, especially in Japan

and India, because of a continued shortage of rice and other grains.

Largely because of the generally improved supply position in importing countries, total exports of wheat and wheat flour from the principal exporting countries during 1952-53 (July-June) are expected to show a decline of at least 10 percent compared with the 1951-52 level. Exports from the United States may be less than the 325 million bushels currently estimated. Exports last season amounted to 473 million bushels. Canadian exports may reach 400 million bushels compared with 347 million bushels in 1951-52.

Argentina's 1952-53 (July-June) exports are not expected to exceed 50 million bushels compared with the 30 million bushels exported during the same 12 months of 1951-52. No wheat was exported from that country during the last 6 months of 1952 because of the short 1951 crop, but some 50 million bushels of the recently harvested 1952 crop were contracted for export during the first 6 months of 1953. The total supply of 1952 crop wheat available for export from Argentina during that country's 1952-53 (December-November) marketing season may reach 125 million bushels. The 1952-53 (December-November) exportable surplus from Australia's recently harvested 1952 crop is now estimated at around 90 million bushels or only a little above that available from the 1951 crop.

Rye: The world's production of rye in 1952-53 is estimated at 1,585 million bushels compared with 1,655 million bushels in 1951-52, and with the prewar (1935-39) average of 1,732 million bushels. Over 95 percent of the crop is normally produced in Continental Europe and Soviet Russia. Virtually all of the balance is produced in Canada, the United States, Turkey, and Argentina.

The reduction in the 1952-53 rye crop is due almost entirely to smaller crops this season in Soviet Russia and other countries back of the Iron Curtain. In Free Europe, the 1952 crop is estimated at 266 million bushels, compared with 258 million last season, and with the prewar average of 286 million bushels. Production in North America was about the same as a year earlier, a smaller crop in the United States being offset by a larger crop in Canada. The Turkish rye crop was also about the same as a year ago, but a much larger crop is expected in Argentina.

BREADGRAIN: World production, 1952 with comparisons 1/

Year	North America	Europe	U.S.S.R.	Asia	Africa	South America	Oceania	World total
Thousand short tons								
Average:								
1935-39	34,090	69,420	61,980	45,360	4,320	8,735	5,310	229,215
1945-49	48,530	53,710	51,495	46,170	4,020	8,335	5,490	217,750
Annual:								
1946	43,185	53,530	43,400	48,025	4,315	8,565	3,690	209,760
1947	52,840	43,925	52,100	46,230	3,370	10,215	6,780	215,960
1948	53,000	62,100	56,790	47,695	4,530	8,585	5,910	238,610
1949	45,430	65,020	59,600	42,635	4,770	8,135	6,720	232,360
1950	46,010	64,820	58,730	46,580	5,010	9,430	5,730	236,360
1951	47,590	66,730	62,700	49,000	4,860	4,790	4,920	240,590
1952 2/	61,090	63,540	61,430	49,300	5,220	11,650	5,100	262,330

1/ Estimated production of wheat and rye.

2/ Preliminary estimates.

Coarse grains: World production of coarse grains (corn, oats and barley) during 1952-53 is now estimated at a near record of 289 million short tons compared with 276 million tons in 1951-52, and with the prewar average of 260 million tons. The all-time record was 292 million tons in 1948-49. The increase is due mainly to a much larger corn crop, a moderate increase in barley production having been offset by a decline in oats production.

Corn is the most important coarse grain moving into export channels. The world's 1952-53 crop is tentatively estimated at 5.6 billion bushels, an outturn exceeded only by the 6 billion bushel crop of 1948-49. Last year's crop amounted to 5.3 billion bushels and the prewar average to 4.8 billion. Most of the increase is accounted for by the near-record United States crop, estimated at 3.3 billion bushels against 2.9 billion bushels in 1951-52, and by current expectations of a much larger crop in Argentina.

Corn supplies in the United States this year will permit exports at a substantially higher level than the 83 million bushels exported in 1951-52 (July-June). With respect to Argentina, a continuation of favorable growing conditions until harvest time next March is expected to result in a crop large enough to permit exports of from 40 to 60 million bushels during that country's 1953-54 (April-March) corn marketing season compared with the estimated 30 million bushels available for export from the 1952 crop, and with prewar average exports of around 250 million bushels.

World barley production this year is forecast at 2.7 billion bushels compared with 2.6 billion in 1951-52 and with the prewar average of 2.4 billion. The world oats crop is estimated at 4 billion bushels compared with 4.2 billion in 1951-52 and with the prewar average of 4.4 billion.

The bulk of the world's production of corn, oats and barley is used for feeding livestock. With the 1952-53 combined production of these grains at a near record, and with the bulk of the increase occurring in the surplus producing areas of North and South America, the quantities available for export during 1952-53 should be more than sufficient to meet world import requirements during the year.

COARSEGRAINS: World production, 1952 with comparisons 1/

Year	North America	Europe	U.S.S.R.	Asia	Africa	South America	Oceania	World total
Thousand short tons								
Average:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1935-39	: 98,270	: 61,170	: 33,630	: 37,400	: 10,410	: 18,030	: 970	: 259,880
1945-49	: 127,770	: 50,495	: 21,230	: 36,735	: 10,170	: 14,785	: 1,215	: 262,400
Annual:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1946	: 136,310	: 46,170	: 15,940	: 35,080	: 9,940	: 16,800	: 870	: 260,110
1947	: 105,185	: 51,205	: 25,120	: 36,525	: 10,590	: 17,005	: 1,650	: 247,280
1948	: 149,175	: 55,750	: 23,820	: 37,555	: 10,570	: 14,095	: 1,215	: 292,180
1949	: 129,050	: 56,455	: 23,760	: 35,590	: 11,850	: 11,425	: 1,310	: 269,440
1950	: 131,225	: 52,095	: 24,000	: 35,695	: 11,300	: 13,600	: 1,310	: 269,225
1951	: 128,250	: 61,075	: 23,180	: 39,080	: 10,720	: 12,365	: 1,450	: 276,120
1952 2/	: 139,110	: 56,120	: 25,140	: 39,920	: 11,560	: 15,890	: 1,620	: 289,360

1/ Estimated production of barley, oats, and corn.

2/ Preliminary estimates.

Winter Grain Prospects for 1953 Less Favorable: Prospects for breadgrains sown in the fall of 1952

for harvest in 1953 are less favorable than they were a year ago in most of the important producing areas for which reports are available. Winter wheat acreage normally accounts for roughly three-quarters of total wheat acreage in the Northern Hemisphere. Unfavorable weather for fieldwork over much of Europe (the major deficit area) curtailed fall seeding and recent reports indicate that a smaller percentage than usual had been completed in a number of countries. Since some arrears may be made up in increased spring seeding, the total acreage may not be significantly changed from that of 1952. Moisture supplies appear generally good.

In the major Northern Hemisphere exporting countries, a small decline in the United States winter wheat acreage, planted for harvest in 1953, is now indicated. Although wheat production in Canada consists almost entirely of spring wheat, dry conditions are causing concern in that country. Moisture reserves are reported as deficient over wide areas, and the outlook from that standpoint is less promising than for a number of years.

Little official information is available on 1953 crop prospects in Asia. In Turkey, seeding was delayed by lack of rainfall in the principal wheat growing area during the usual seeding period. Some complaints of dry conditions have also been reported from parts of India, but the grain crop is reported in generally good condition.

Rice: World rice production in 1952-53 (August-July) will be the largest on record and will exceed the 1951-52 crop by a considerable margin. Producers expanded their acreage in all of the Continents, and good crops are being harvested in most countries. The world's total crop is currently estimated at 123 million short tons (milled rice basis). This represents an increase of 5.6 million tons over the 1951-52 crop and of 6.1 million tons over the average (1935-36/1939-40) output. It is especially significant to note that the largest increases occurred in the major rice-importing countries of the world. This should reduce somewhat the volume of rice needed from exportable supplies in surplus-producing countries, although import demand will continue to exceed export availabilities by a wide margin.

The Continent showing the largest gain in rice production is Asia, which accounts for 91 percent of the estimated world's total. The increase in Asia's 1952-53 production over that of the preceding season is estimated at 5 million tons. The principal increases are in the normally heavy importing countries of India and China. However, larger crops are being harvested also in such other importing countries as Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines. Early forecasts of the total production in the exporting countries of Asia -- Burma, Thailand, and Indochina -- show only a moderate increase over that of last season.

Countries other than those in Asia where noticeably larger rice crops have been or will be harvested in 1952-53 are the United States, Cuba, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, and possibly Ecuador. Several of the smaller producing countries of Central America and Africa also have larger crops. The United States crop this year is 128,000 tons larger than a year ago, and that in the rest of the Western Hemisphere 219,000 tons larger. European production this season exceeds that of a year ago by 125,000 tons, and African production by 109,000 tons.

Trade: Despite the 5 percent increase in the world's total production of rice, this year's total outturn in the exporting countries is expected to show little, if any, gain from last year. For that

reason, the world's exportable supplies of milled rice in calendar 1953 are estimated at approximately 5,500,000 short tons, about the same as actual exports in 1952.

Increased production of from 5 to 10 percent in Burma will be offset by a smaller crop in Thailand. While a good crop is reported in Indochina, actual supplies available for export in 1953 are expected to be no larger than in 1952 unless existing export restrictions are removed from the surplus areas of Cambodia and South Vietnam. In that event, actual exports from Indochina could be somewhat larger than in 1952. Since rice production in the Far East has not increased materially over prewar levels but population has increased substantially, per capita rice consumption has declined in these traditionally rice consuming areas and will be about the same as in the preceding year.

A new record crop in the United States in 1952 was sufficient to provide export availabilities fully as large as those of the preceding season.

Despite the fact that the March-May harvest in Brazil will be larger than a year ago if present favorable growing conditions continue, that country's exportable surplus in 1953 is not likely to exceed 150,000 tons because of a reduced carry-over.

Italy harvested another record crop this year and 1953 exports should approximate the 400,000 tons exported in 1952. Because of another short rice crop in Egypt, little, if any, rice will continue to be available for export from that country in 1953.

RICE (in terms of milled): Production and exports by principal areas of the world, 1952-53 (August-July) 1/ with comparisons

Area	Average		Annual				
	1935-36						
	to	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53		
	1939-40			2/	2/		
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000		
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons		
Production							
United States.....	730	1,324	1,257	1,424	1,552		
Other W. Hemisphere....	1,478	3,325	3,363	3,353	3,572		
Asia.....	111,884	108,863	109,072	108,140	113,123		
Europe.....	778	827	940	1,079	1,205		
Africa.....	1,735	2,895	3,053	2,739	2,848		
Total world.....	117,117	118,042	118,521	117,583	123,229		

(Continued)

RICE (in terms of milled): Production and exports by principal areas of the world, 1952-53 (August-July) 1/ with comparisons

Area	Average		Annual			
	1935-36					
	to	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	
	1939-40			2/	2/	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	
Exports						
United States.....	118	543	536	950	950	
Brazil.....	42	105	182	250	150	
Asia <u>3/</u>	8,280	3,239	3,927	3,665	3,840	
Italy.....	168	247	247	400	350 - 400	
Egypt.....	138	196	346	25	10	
World total.....	8,831	4,556	5,353	5,500	5,500	

1/ Production is shown for the August-July crop year in which rice is harvested; exports are for the calendar year beginning in January within the given crop year. 2/ Preliminary. Exports for 1952 are estimated and those for 1953 are estimates of exportable supplies. 3/ Mainly Burma, Thailand, and Indochina.

SUGAR

World production of centrifugal cane and beet sugar during the 1952-53 season is expected to total 36.7 million short tons, raw value, compared with 38.2 million tons during 1951-52 and the average 28.5 million tons of 1935-39. While the current crop is 4 percent lower than the record crop of 1951-52 because of the restrictive measures taken in Cuba and Puerto Rico and the unfavorable weather conditions of Western Europe, carry-over from the 1951-52 crop is of such extent that sugar available to the world during the current year should exceed that available during the previous season. This 1951-52 carry-over has been estimated to exceed that of the previous year by between 2.5 and 3.0 million tons. The bulk of this increase is held by Cuba and Puerto Rico. The production of noncentrifugal sugar is expected to total 6.7 million short tons, as made, in 1952-53, compared with 6.6 million tons in 1951-52, an average 6.2 million tons for 1945-49 and an average 5.4 million tons for 1935-39.

The surplus of centrifugal sugar, which has driven world prices down in 1952, exists primarily in the hard currency areas of the world. This surplus remains unsold as demand for sugar continues to rise in the nondollar areas. The United Kingdom, with a potential domestic consumption of more than 3.0 million tons of sugar, continues to ration sugar at a level of about 2.4 million tons. Thus, the Cuba and Puerto Rican crops are restricted while almost every other area in the world endeavors to increase production.

Many trading areas of the world, such as the British, French and Portuguese, systems are trying to achieve self-sufficiency with regards to sugar. In general, Western Europe, a deficit area, is increasing its

sugar beet acreage each year and only adverse weather conditions are holding down production during the current season. Eastern Europe, a surplus area, shows no inclination to stabilize sugar production, and only weather conditions have limited the increase for the current year.

In Asia, a deficit area in recent years, the Philippines have surpassed prewar production levels, Formosa has reached two-thirds of its prewar production levels while Indonesian production keeps pace with increasing domestic requirements. Voluntary restriction of the current crop is anticipated in India where a surplus from the previous year's record production is in evidence. Only India and Turkey expect a decreased sugar production this year and Asiatic trade may be more closely in balance during 1953 with respect to this commodity.

South America, a self-sufficient unit, may have net exports equivalent to that which British Guiana supplies the United Kingdom and Canada. Exports from Africa now approximate imports into Africa. The British areas of Mauritius and the Union of South Africa, the French territory of Reunion and the Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Angola are the net exporters of Africa. The balance of the African areas are net importers. The Oceanic areas of Australia and Fiji are net exporters to the British Commonwealth. The general policy of every area of South America, Africa and Oceania is one of increasing sugar production.

With respect to the United States, the situation is one of more than adequate sugar supplies for the next few years. Every major source of supply, except possibly the continental beet area, may be expected to fill their quotas in the current year, Puerto Rico holds a carry-over from the previous crop which cannot be taken care of under its United States quota and Cuba is retaining a surplus of about 2 million tons which may be shipped to the United States at a rate of 400,000 tons per year for the next 5 years.

EDIBLE FATS AND OILS

Total world production of edible fats and oils in 1952 is estimated at 21.6 million short tons - a decrease of 1.0 million tons or about 4 percent from the record output of 1951. The decrease in world production is expected mainly because of a more than 800,000 ton reduction in the Mediterranean olive oil crop for 1952-53 compared with the bumper output in 1951-52 of 1.6 million tons. However, world per capita supplies are not significantly less during 1952-53 since carry-over stocks of oil from the previous olive crop are large. And the shifting of a substantial volume of 1951-52 olive oil into this season goes a long way toward equalizing world supplies of fats and oils during 1951-52 and 1952-53.

The peak production attained in 1951 was about sufficient for the first time since World War II to restore the prewar per capita level

of supply. However, since the 1951 production was not wholly consumed, as is evident from the carry-over of olive oil stocks, the per capita supply is not quite up to prewar. Nevertheless, because large quantities of edible oils are normally used for industrial purposes, a possible reduction in such uses provides some basis for maintaining edible supplies. The trend toward synthetic detergents is a case in point, since it reduces the use of coconut oil by the soap industry and increases the use of coconut oil in margarine and shortening.

EDIBLE FATS AND OILS: World production,
average 1935-39, annual 1949-52

(Million short tons)

Item	Average 1935-39	1949	1950	1951 1/	1952 1/
Vegetable oils.....	8.4	9.6	9.2	10.6	9.7
Coconut and palm oils....	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.0	3.9
Animal fats.....	7.3	6.7	7.0	7.2	7.2
Marine oils.....	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Total.....	20.3	20.6	20.7	22.6	21.6

1/ Preliminary.

Of the estimated world production of 21.6 million tons of edible fats and oils in 1952, vegetable oils are the most important group with 9.7 million tons. This takes into account the oil to be extracted from the 1952 crops of soybeans, cottonseed, peanuts, rapeseed, sunflower seed, olives and sesame seed. Animal fats with 7.2 million tons rank second. Although considerably below prewar, butter is still the leading source of edible fat in the world, followed closely by lard. Edible tallow makes up the balance of the animal fats. Coconut and palm oils accounted for 3.9 million tons in 1952, down from 4.0 million tons in 1951, largely because of a reduction in coconut oil output in Indonesia and the Philippines, which was not fully offset by some increase in palm oil output in Indonesia and Africa. Coconut oil may recover somewhat in 1953 if prices are sufficiently attractive to producers and if typhoon damage is not excessive. Edible marine oils, divided about equally between whale oil from the Antarctic produced largely by European expeditions, and fish oils--chiefly in Northern Europe and North America--make up the balance of the edible groups with 0.8 million tons.

The distribution of supplies of edible fats and oils throughout the world has achieved a fair balance. There are no acute shortages of edible fats and oils in any major areas. Nevertheless, distribution problems remain, with more abundant supplies for consumption and export in the dollar areas, and some tighter supply situations in the soft-currency importing areas. While it has recovered each year since World War II, total world trade in edible fats and oils has not reached the

war level. Peanut trade is down about 300,000 tons in terms of oil, largely because of smaller exports from India and China, and olive oil, cottonseed oil, butter and whale oil taken together are down another 250,000 tons. Against these decreases, lard and sunflower seed oil, mainly from the United States and Argentina, respectively, have increased about 350,000 tons so that the net decrease is in the neighborhood of 200,000 tons.

Reductions in the volume of world trade have been partially offset by expanded production in normally deficit areas; for example, increased repressed production in Western Europe compared with prewar. However, reduced world trade is also partly reflected in reductions in the per capita availability of fats and oils in certain countries. For the deficit countries of Western Europe average per capita consumption is at about the prewar level, while some of the surplus producing countries of Africa have increased consumption per capita.

More important than changes in the volume of fats and oils entering world trade have been changes in the flow of trade from source areas to deficit countries. Of particular significance is the changed situation in respect to China-Manchuria. Before the war, China-Manchuria supplied about 700,000 tons edible oil equivalent to world trade, mainly to Western Europe and Japan. Except for some recovery in Manchurian soybean trade with Western Europe, and limited quantities of Chinese peanuts, it is unlikely that this volume of trade can be restored in the near future. The case of India is somewhat similar. India's prewar exports of peanuts alone, again mainly to Western Europe, averaged about 400,000 tons (oil equivalent) annually. In recent years, India's exports have been limited by export controls to provide adequate supplies of edible oils for its population at reasonable prices. No significant relaxation in these controls is anticipated.

Western European import requirements for edible fats and oils are around 3.5 million tons annually and account for considerably more than half the world trade. Much of the gap created by the reduction in supplies from Asia has been filled by a completely changed export-import situation in the United States. In 1935-39 the United States had net imports of all fats and oils averaging 1 million tons. In the past few years, this situation has reversed and the net export balance during 1952 was around 500,000 tons. Over one-fourth of this consisted of inedible tallow and grease, which was used chiefly in the production of soap. This, in turn, released for edible use corresponding quantities of other fats and oils. Thus, the inedible products from the United States also contributed to expanding edible supplies in Europe. Half the United States exports went to Western Europe in 1951 (well over 500,000 tons oil equivalent) and probably about the same proportion in 1952. With record supplies of edible fats and oils, the United States can continue to cover readily and European requirements not met from other areas.

MEAT

World meat production in 1952 was nearly 4 percent above the record high of the previous year and 12 percent above the average of prewar 1934-38. Eastern Europe is the only area which has not exceeded prewar levels of production. The greatest increase in output took place in North America, but some increase occurred in Western Europe and Latin America. Further increases are expected in North America during 1953, especially in Canada. Increased beef production is expected in the United States where cattle herds have been built-up to large numbers. Some slight increase in livestock numbers and consequently meat production may be expected in Australia as it recovers from severe drought. Some increase in meat production occurred in Europe in 1951-52 due to heavy slaughter in some countries as a result of severe outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. More normal slaughter in 1952-53 may lower slightly current meat production.

Despite the increase in meat production during recent years, less meat has moved into world trade. In 1952 meat exports were 15 percent less than in 1951 and about 22 percent less than the averages for 1946-50 and 1934-38. The decreased trade is a result of the increased domestic consumption of meat in the major exporting countries and consequently smaller surplus for export. The United States is taking less meat out of the world trade supplies due to greater domestic production. On the other hand Brazil and Peru are taking more meat from Argentina and Uruguay, and France and Germany are taking more from Denmark and the Netherlands. The net result has been less meat available for the United Kingdom, the principal importer. Recently completed meat contracts at higher prices between the United Kingdom and the principal suppliers, namely New Zealand, Argentina, Australia, the Netherlands and Denmark may draw more meat to the United Kingdom but the full effect will not be felt in the 1952-53 consumption year. During 1952 availabilities in the United Kingdom have been bolstered by an appreciable increase in domestic production, particularly of pork.

Even though meat production continues at high levels, increased population will continue to exert pressure on supplies and importing countries will be hard put to maintain meat consumption.

MEAT 1/: World production by continent or areas,
average 1934-38, annual 1949-52

Area or continent	Average : 1934-38 :	1949 :	1950 :	1951 :	1952 2/ :
	Mil. lbs. :	Mil. lbs. :	Mil. lbs. :	Mil. lbs. :	Mil. lbs. :
North America...	17,600 :	23,600 :	24,000 :	23,800 :	24,800 :
Western Europe...	20,400 :	17,300 :	19,600 :	20,400 :	21,200 :
Eastern Europe...	15,700 :	10,300 :	11,500 :	12,500 :	12,700 :
Middle East.....	1,100 :	1,300 :	1,300 :	1,400 :	1,500 :
Latin America...	9,300 :	11,800 :	11,700 :	11,200 :	11,700 :
South Africa.....	671 :	954 :	937 :	868 :	925 :
Oceania.....	3,200 :	3,600 :	3,500 :	3,300 :	3,300 :
World total...	68,000 :	68,900 :	72,500 :	73,500 :	76,100 :

1/ Carcass meat basis--includes beef and veal, pork, mutton and lamb, goat and horse meat; excludes edible offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ estimated.

MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS

World milk production dropped slightly in 1952 after reaching in 1951 the prewar (1934-38) level of output. Eastern Europe is the only area that did not reach prewar level. North America, Western Europe and Oceania, which accounts for 70 percent of the world's output of milk, produced 15 percent more milk in 1952 than in the prewar period. The level of output in these 3 areas was down somewhat in early 1952 due to unfavorable producing conditions in most countries, but by the end of 1952 production was at a near record.

While total milk output is near the prewar mark, butter production is nearly 16 percent below it. Considerably more milk is now consumed in fluid form than before the war. Also cheese production has increased by 25 percent over the same period. Current cheese output continues the upward trend with 1952 production reaching a record. The greater use of milk in fluid form and the increased output of cheese and some other whole milk products such as condensed and evaporated milk has been accompanied by a reduction in the quantity of milk separated for butter-making which in most countries is the residual use after other requirements are satisfied.

Prospects for 1953 indicate that milk and dairy products will continue in about the same level of availabilities as in 1952 in the principal producing and consuming countries. In these areas the contribution to the food supply has been enhanced as compared to prewar notwithstanding an increase in population. This has been possible because of the generally higher total milk output and the increased utilization of the total solids in milk as contrasted to the use of mainly the fat portion. Cheese production is expected to increase another 1 to 2 percent for the year.

Notwithstanding relatively high domestic levels of butter production, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and Finland are currently taking up available free-market supplies of butter principally from Denmark, Netherlands and Sweden. Cheese, on the other hand, appears in a relatively easy supply position.

The United Kingdom continues to be the principal import consumer of butter and cheese, taking about 75 percent of the butter and 50 percent of the cheese entering world trade. Australia and New Zealand are important suppliers to the United Kingdom market. Current producing conditions in most of the dairy areas of Australia are greatly improved over a year ago and current quantities available to the United Kingdom will be substantially above a year ago. Output of butter and cheese in New Zealand is currently equalling or surpassing the record levels set last year. Nearly as much butter and cheese will be available to the United Kingdom from the Netherlands and Denmark as was imported last year.

Canned and dried milk supplies in the principal producing countries are adequate and expanding. The United States which became the principal supplier of these products during the war is experiencing increased competition both at home and abroad from other countries that have resumed or initiated exports of these products.

MILK: World production by continent or areas,
average 1934-38, annual 1949-52

Area or continent	Average 1934-38	1949	1950	1951	1952 ^{1/}
	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.	Mil. lbs.
North America.....	132,000	151,000	152,000	151,000	149,000
Western Europe.....	170,000	160,000	176,000	180,000	179,000
Eastern Europe.....	130,000	93,000	97,000	97,000	96,000
Middle East)	:	:	:	:	:
Far East).....	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
North Africa)	:	:	:	:	:
Latin America.....	13,000	15,600	17,000	16,000	18,000
South Africa.....	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Oceania.....	22,000	23,100	23,300	22,400	23,200
World total.....	501,000	476,700	499,300	500,400	499,200

^{1/} Estimated.

